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In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) Isolated polynucleotide ~~comprising~~ of the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8 or one of its fragments.

Claim 2 (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8.

Claim 3 (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 4, SEQ.ID.NO. 5, SEQ.ID.NO. 11 and SEQ.ID.NO. 12.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A An isolated polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 ~~or one of its fragments~~.

Cancel Claim 7.

Claim 8 (previously presented) An expression vector containing a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A host cell transformed or transfected by an expression vector according to claim 8.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A process for preparing an isolated polypeptide ~~comprising~~ corresponding to the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or one of the fragments of the ~~latter~~ said SEQ ID NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological ~~an~~ and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, said preparation process comprising the following steps:

(a) culture, under suitable conditions to obtain the expression of said polypeptide of ~~e~~ a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13, the sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or also one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein human GHRN protein and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

(b) isolation of the polypeptide from the host cell cultures.

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Claim 11 (previously presented) An antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the latter, which specifically binds the protein sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 but not the protein of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 10.

Claims 12 to 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (previously presented) A method for the identification of compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation comprising:

(a) bring each candidate compound into contact with an isolated polypeptide comprising:

- either a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9,
- or a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13,

under condition and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to bind to the polypeptide, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

- (b) detection of the binding of each candidate compound to said polypeptide and identification, from the candidate compounds, of the compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an amount of polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal an amount of polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease.